Module - The Cramer Fire- Fire History in the Salmon River Breaks

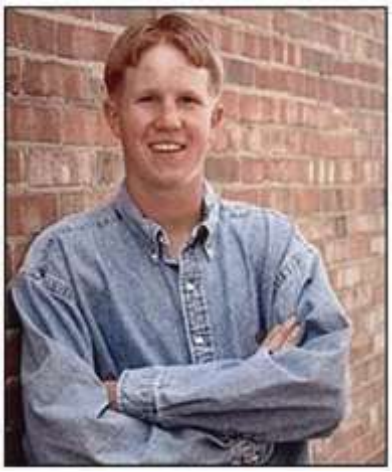
Overview

Students will learn the value of knowing their local fire history to fully understand local fire behavior predictions.

Cramer Fire Timeline

Date	Time and Action
July 19, 2003	2100 ..... Lightning strike reported in the area of Cramer Creek.
July 20, 2003	1630 ..... Cramer Fire reported. 1648 ..... Jumper 41 diverted from the Crystal Fire to the Cramer Fire. 1704 ..... Fire 3 acres with high spread potential. Jumper 41 unable to staff due to high winds. 1713 ..... Cramer Air Attack departed for Cramer Fire.BLM engines 7157 and 422 dispatched. 1754 ..... Moyer helicopter (H-166) dispatched to Cramer Fire. 1900 ..... Shaddlle assigned as IC 4 for Cramer Fire. 1938 ..... IC 4 requested an IC 3 for fire. 1950 ..... Fire reconned by helicopter. 2015 ..... IC 4 and trainee, and five engine crewmembers landed on H-1. 2143 ..... Additional firefighters unable to fly to fire because of darkness.
July 21, 2003	0030 ..... Five firefighters bed down. IC 4 and trainee monitor the fire. 0230 ..... Fire, which burned actively until 0230, started to die down. 0530 ..... IC 4 trainee walked perimeter. 0710 ..... Fire 35 to 45 acres. 0800 ..... Spot weather forecast. Type 1 helicopter available. 1000 ..... Cramer Air Attack over fire. Estimated size at 40 acres. Landed at 1042. 1058 ..... IC 3 recconed fire and transitioned with IC 4 at H-1. 1130 ..... Fire activity increased on east and north sides. 1148 ..... Type 1 helicopter sent to fire. 1242 ..... Type 2 crew began shuttle to H-1. 1410 ..... IC 3 requested retardant. 1515 ..... Indianola helicopter (H-193) and crew reported to fire. 1558 ..... Cramer Air Attack returned to fire. 1613 ..... IC 3 reported active fire and potential to reach Salmon River road by morning. 1631 ..... Lookout posted for Type 2 crew. 1715 ..... Fire 60 acres. Two medium helicopters requested. 1735 ..... IC 3 and crew began leaving fire. 1952 ..... Fire 200 acres. 2000 ..... Fire intensity low. 2130 ..... IC 3 discussed plan for July 22 with Forest Supervisors Office.
July 22, 2003	0300 ..... Fire, which burned actively until 0300, started to die down. 0820 ..... Fire reconned by helicopter. 0900 ..... Type 1 helicopter sent to fire for bucket work.

	0900 ..... Morning briefing at Cove Creek helibase. 0929 ..... H-193 launched to rappel Allen and Heath onto the H-2 site. 0955 ..... Cramer air attack over fire 1021 ..... Recon enroute to H-1. Fire perimeter into Cache Bar drainage. 1030 ..... Fire active below H-1..... 1100 ..... Progress check on H-2 construction. 1230 ..... Progress check on H-2 construction. 1300 ..... Lead plane 41 identified fire in Cache Bar drainage. 1304 ..... Lead plane 41 relieved Cramer air attack. 1326 ..... Fire reconned by helicopter. Fire visible in Cache Bar drainage. 1327 ..... H-193 transitions to bucket work on H-1. 1340 ..... H-1 threatened by fire. Firefighters pull back. Crewman on helicopter recon dropped off. 1400 ..... Fire activity intense. H-1 burned over. 1423 ..... IC 3 communicated concerns about fire to Forest FMO. 1430 ..... Smoldering fire in Cache Bar drainage became active fire front. 1445 ..... Progress check on H-2 construction. 1445 ..... H-166 sent to pick up crewman from fire previously dropped off. 1447 ..... IC 3 planned to remove rappellers from H-2. 1454 ..... Cramer Air Attack over fire. 1500 ..... Fire in the Cramer Creek and Cache Bar drainages began to spread rapidly. Helicopters down for maintenance and refueling. 1505 ..... Rappellers called for immediate pickup. 1509 ..... Rappellers called for immediate pickup. Reported they were fine, just taking a lot of smoke. 1511 ..... Type 2 crews began to pull off the fire line. 1513 ..... Rappellers report fire and smoke below them. Ask for immediate pickup. 1514 ..... IC 3 involved in multiple conversations about diverting resources. 1519 ..... Rappellers contacted helibase about status of H-166. H-166 enroute to H-2. 1520 ..... H-166 over H-2, unable to land. Rappellers departed H-2. 1524 ..... Cache Bar drainage fully involved in fire. Rappellers made final call for immediate pickup and died shortly afterward. 1525 ..... H-166 returned to helibase for fuel. 1530 ..... Cramer air attack attempted to contact rappellers. 1534 ..... H-193 launched to search for rappellers. 1545 ..... H-166 diverted to Stoddard Fire. 1600 ..... IC 3 reported contact lost with rappellers. 1616 ..... H-166 returned. Searched for missing rappellers. 1650 ..... H-193 departed helibase to continue search. 1730 ..... Type 2 crews at road awaiting pickup. 1749 ..... Transition to new IC 3. 1755 ..... Two helitack crewmembers initiated ground search for rappellers. 1820 ..... Bodies of rappellers located.Two more helitack crewmembers arrive to spend the night. 2020 ..... Fire reached Long Tom Creek.
July 23, 2003	0912 ..... New helispot near H-2 cleared. 1008 ..... H-166 transports Lemhi County officials to fatality site. 1258 ..... Bodies of rappellers transported to helibase. 1500 ..... Fatality site secured. 1510 ..... Bodies flown to Salmon, ID, airport. 1800 ..... Investigation team arrived in Salmon.



Jeff Allen

Jeff Allen, 24, of Salmon, Idaho, graduated from Salmon High School in 1997. He was a three-year letterman in basketball and football, and a four-year letterman in golf. As a senior, Jeff was named Mountain River Conference Player of the Year in basketball, and was also honored as First Team All- Conference in football. He was selected to play in the 1997 "Down Under Bowl" in Australia.

Salmon High School has retired Jeff's basketball number "22." Today, his basketball uniform is featured in a shadow box in the school's foyer.

Jeff started his seasonal firefighting in 1998. In 2000, he joined the Indianola Rappel Crew. (Jeff's father, Bill Allen, was on an Idaho-based helitack crew in the 1960s.)

Jeff was on track to graduate in December 2003 with a degree in Business Administration from Boise State University. The school has provided Jeff's parents with his Business Administration diploma. During the 2002-2003 season, Jeff served as an assistant on the Boise State basketball team. His dream was to become a college basketball coach.

Shane Heath

Shane Heath, 22, was raised on his family's 7,500- acre row crop farm in Melba, Idaho. He was an avid outdoorsman. When he was 15, Shane starting working with the helicopter crew that was performing agricultural spraying on the family's farm. Shane became hooked on helicopters.

In 1999, Shane graduated from Melba High School, where he was active in Future Farmers of America and played football and basketball.

In 2000, Shane joined the Sula Fire Crew on the Bitterroot National Forest. In his second season on this crew, Shane continued to develop his tree felling skills and became a "Class C" Faller. At the end of that season, he joined the Indianola Rappel Crew.

A senior business major at Boise State University, by the end of this third firefighting season, Shane had decided to pursue a full-time wildland firefighting career.

Exercise

Students will gather in small groups and on a flip chart write down historical patterns of fire behavior in their area and identify emerging trends that will affect future firefighting operations. The groups will individually present the results to the class. Consider weather, fuels, topography, synergistic properties, linear versus exponential fire growth, and seasonal changes of the area.

"Ecological behavior is not only more complicated than we think, it may be more complicated than we can think." Paraphrase from J.B.S. Haldane, evolutionary biologist.

Emergent properties – The unexpected, complex behaviors that stem from interaction between the large number of simple components of a system and its environment.

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